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FARM AND HOME HOUR

ADVERTISER

WRITER

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS (#397)

PROGRAM TITLE

OK

WMAQ-BLUE

CHICAGO OUTLET 12:30 PM

AUGUST 2, 1940

FRIDAY

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TIME

DATE

DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

MUSIC: Quartet, Ranger Song

ANNOUNCER: With the help of science and new tools and machines the United States Forest Service and State and private forest fire-fighting agencies have speeded up and improved the effectiveness of attack on forest fires to a marvelous degree. And here's a night important point worth thinking about -- in spite of the fact that the number of forest fires starting has not decreased, and in some places actually has increased, the amount of acreage burned and the amount of damage done by fires in protected American forests have been tremendously reduced. In other words our foresters have conclusively demonstrated that the forest fire menace here in America can be controlled. Now-- as to whether or not it will be controlled is another matter -- that depends on whether organized and systematic protection is extended to all the forest lands of the country that need it. Here's what Mr. Roy Headley, Chief of Fire Control in the United States Forest Service, says. He says, without forest protection our forests of the future will be wasted as they have been in the past. More than one hundred and fifty million acres of State and privately owned forest lands extremely essential to our national well-being are still without organized forest protection of any kind. And on other millions of acres scattered throughout the country our defense is far from adequate. Nation-wide action making it possible to extend adequate organized protection to all our forests is urgently needed. Those are Mr. Headley's statements and he should know. (MORE)

1. ANNOUNCER: So folks, let's everyone of us find out what action
2. (CONT'D) is needed to keep our forests safe and green, and to
3. something about it right now.

4. Well, the last time we heard from Ranger Jim Robbins and
5. his assistant ranger Jerry Quick out on the Pine Cone National Forest
6. they were having a mighty hot time. With Jerry and a crew of men
7. trapped in the path of an escaped forest fire, Jim and pilot Dick
8. Martin went flying to the rescue. After some mighty risky flying
9. through dense clouds of smoke Jim and the pilot managed to drop
10. portable pumps and hose to Jerry and his beleaguered crew and the
11. pumps saved the day. But then the motor of the airplane went bad
12. as Jim and the pilot flew over the fire, and it looked mighty serious.
13. As we look in now we find Jerry at the Crawford ranch working the
14. dials on his portable radio trying to get in communication with the
15. ranger station at Winding Creek.

16. SOUND OF RADIO SQUEALING AND CRACKLING UP THEN DOWN

17. JERRY: SP three-two calling M one-o. SP 32 calling M one-o.
18. Come in Winding Creek if you can hear me.

19. SOUND OF RADIO SWITCH CLICK AND MORE CRACKLING

20. JERRY: H-m-m. Either this set's gone haywire, Bill, or everybody
21. down there at the station has gone to sleep.

22. BILL: No answer, huh?

23. BESS: (FILER) This is M one-o. This is Winding Creek. Go
24. ahead SP 32.
25.

JERRY: There's Mrs. Robbins. (SOUND OF SWITCH CLICK) This is Jerry at Crawford's ranch, Mrs. Robbins. Have you got me tuned in all right now? Go ahead. (SOUND OF SWITCH CLICK)

BESS: (FILTER) Yes, Jerry. It's all right now. I had a little trouble getting the right switch but I've got you now. Go ahead.

SWITCH CLICK

JERRY: I just wanted to report in, Mrs. Robbins, and find out what action's being taken to stop this blowup of the Bear Mountain fire and what Jim wants me to do. We all came through here at the ranch okay -- thanks to the pumps Jim brought us in the plane. The fire's passed completely over. And the air's clearing up all the time. We managed to save the house and barn and other buildings but the forest around here and all the grass and hay is burned clean. Some of Crawford's cows and sheep and one horse were burned up too as far as we know now. He'll have to get the rest of his stock out of here somehow or they'll starve. But where's Jim and what does he want me to do now? Go ahead.

SOUND OF SWITCH CLICK

BESS: (FILTER) I thought you were in touch with Jim, Jerry. He hasn't reported in here at all.

CLICK:

JERRY: Will you repeat that, Mrs. Robbins? You mean Jim hasn't come back to Winding Creek in the plane? Haven't you heard from him at all?

CLICK:

1. BESS: (FILTER) I haven't heard a thing, Jerry. I thought he
 2. was still up flying around the fire and keeping in touch
 3. with you, Jerry. You don't suppose.....

4. CLICK

5. JERRY: Hello, Mrs. Robbins...Hello The last time I talked
 6. to Jim was about an hour ago, Mrs. Robbins. As soon
 7. as the pumps came down I told him everything here was
 8. going to be okay. And then I had to leave the set and
 9. help fight fire. It's funny he didn't call back to you
 10. as soon as he got away from here. Did Jim give you
 11. any instructions when he left in the plane?

12. CLICK:

13. BESS: (FILTER) All he said was that he'd be back soon, Jerry,
 14. and that I should take care of things. Jerry, you don't
 15. suppose...you don't suppose....

16. JERRY: (OFF RADIO) Gosh, did you hear that, Bill?! Looks like
 17. maybe Jim had an accident!

18. BILL: Do you think he could of crashed?

19. JERRY: Look, Bill, could you hear the motor of that plane when
 20. it was going away from here?

21. BILL: I couldn't hear much, Jerry, with this fire all around.
 22. But what I could hear of it sounded all right to me.

23. CLICK:

24. JERRY: Hello Mrs. Robbins. Are you still on the air?

25. CLICK:

1. BESS: (FILTER) Yes Jerry. Go ahead.

2. CLICK:

3. JERRY: Well listen we're not going to suppose anything. It
4. may be that Jim and the pilot did have to make a forced
5. landing but that doesn't necessarily mean that they're
6. hurt or anything, and somehow we've got to find them.
7. Here's what you do. Call Supervisor Ellsworth in
8. Willow Glen. Tell him everything that's happened and
9. ask him to come out here and take charge of this fire.
10. The way it looks we'll need about three or four hundred
11. men. Tell him .. tell him I've taken a crew and gone
12. out to look for Dick and Jim. If they did have to make
13. a forced landing it will probably be over across the
14. ridge and down below here in the Walton Lake country.
15. That's the only level land there is anywhere around here.
16. And Mrs. Robbins, tell Mr. Ellsworth to send another plane
17. or two or three planes to scout around from the air and
18. look for Jim. Just tell him the circumstances and he'll
19. know what to do. And I'll call in by radio from
20. wherever I am at least once every hour. Have you got that
21. now?

22. CLICK:

23. BESS: (FILTER) Yes Jerry. I'll call Bert right away.

24. CLICK:

25.

1. JERRY: And you'd better call Mary, Mrs. Robbins and have her
2. come over and stay with you. I'm signing off
3. temporarily now and we'll try to work our way out of this
4. burned over bottom and up on the ridge. So long.

5. CLICK:

6. CRACKLE OF RADIO

7. LOOKOUT: (FILTER) T-five calling SP three-two. Hang on a minute
8. SP 32. This is Wilson on Skookum Butte lookout calling
9. SP three- two.

10. CLICK:

11. JERRY: Okay Wilson I got you, go ahead.

12. CLICK:

13. LOOKOUT: (FILTER) Say Jerry, I happened to be tuned in when you
14. were talkin' to Mrs. Robbins but I didn't want to say
15. anything 'til she got off the air. I heard that plane
16. after it left down below and the motor was missin' bad.
17. But the smoke was so thick I couldn't see a thing.
18. But things have cleared up some now and I can see a new
19. smoke back behind the main fire over in the Walton Lake
20. direction and it looks to me like maybe that could be
21. where the plane crashed and caught on fire. The plane would probably
22. catch on fire as soon as it cracked up, if it did, and that smoke
23. doesn't look like a spot fire from the amin Bear Mountain burn. It's
24. in the opposite direction from the wind. I wouldn't want to give you
25. any bum steers but I thought maybe you oughta know about it. Gee, I
hope you can find old Jim.

CLICK:

1. JERRY: Just about where is the smoke from the lake, Wilson?
2. CLICK:
3. LOOKOUT: (FILTER) Looks from here like it's right close beside it
4. on the south side. There's a ridge in the way so I can't
5. see the base of the fire and I doubt if there's any
6. other lookout that can look in there either. But if you
7. got up on the ridge above Crawford's ranch there I
8. think you could see it. It can't be more than three or
9. four miles from where you are.
10. CLICK:
11. JERRY: Okay Wilson. We'll head over there right now. It's
12. using your head not to report this in to Mrs. Robbins at
13. Winding Creek. All it would do would be to worry her
14. all the more. I'll keep in touch with you. So long.
15. (OFF RADIO) All right, Bill, get Slim and Pete and Mike
16. rounded up with tools and first aid kits and let's go.
17. I hate to think (FADE) of what we'll find there.
18. MUSIC UP AND OUT
19. BILL: Wait a minute, Jerry. Let's rest here a minute and see
20. if we can't get our boots cooled off.
21. JERRY: Huh?
22. MONTAGE OF VOICES OFF, AD LIB: Yeah, this is terrible ... Hold up a
23. minute. Let's take a five.... etc.
24. BILL: My feet are about burned up in these hot ashes. And the
25. dust is awful.

1. JERRY: We'll soon be out of the burn, fellas.
2. VOICES: (OFF) Just a coupla minutes, Jerry.... It's sure tough
3. going... etc.
4. JERRY: Okay, boys. Rest up a couple minutes if you want.
5. I'm going on ahead. (FADING) We just gotta find Jim.
6. SHORT MUSIC UP AND OUT
7. JERRY: (FADING IN) Here's the top of the ridge, fellas. We
8. ought to be able to see the lake and the fire from here.
9. BILL: The smoke's pretty thick, Jerry but I believe I can
10. see the lake down in there now. Look right over here
11. just to the left of that clump of green trees. See it?
12. JERRY: Yeah. But I can't see any fire near it, can you?
13. BILL: No. Smoke seems to have settled down in the bottoms so
14. you can't see a thing.
15. JERRY: Well, let's see. We're on the south side of the lake
16. here and from Wilson's description, that fire he was
17. talkin' about should be somewhere between us and the
18. lake. Dawgone, if there was a fire it seems funny we
19. can't see it from here.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.

1, BILL: Yeah. And if it was a fire started by a plane crackin'
2, up it'd be a pretty good sized fire, and start the brush
3, to burkin' too. If that guy Wilson sent us way up here
4, through that burn on a wild goose chase...
5, JERRY: Well there's still a chance we can't see it from here.
6, (CALLS) Hey Slim, you and Mike and Pete o'mere.
7, MONTAGE OF VOICES SLIGHTLY OFF: Okay. What're yuh gonna do now etc.?
8,
9,
10,
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25.

1. JERRY: We'll split up, Bill, and work this whole sidehill out
2. from here clean down to the lake. (FADE) You take Mike
3. and Pete and work down to the left and Slim and I'll go...

4. MUSIC UP AND OUT

5. BILL: (FADING IN) Well here we are at the lake, and we haven't
6. found anything yet. If you ask me I don't think Wilson
7. saw a smoke over in here at all.

8. MONTAGE OF VOICES AD LIB: Neither do I. I'll say he was seein'
9. things. etc.

10. JERRY: We can't blame Wilson, Bill. With all this drift smoke
11. around. . .

12. FAINT SOUND OF VOICES OFF

13. BILL: Hey listen. (SHORT PAUSE)

14. JERRY: Listen to what? I don't hear anything.

15. BILL: By George, I swear I heard something...sounded like somebody
16. talkin'. Wait a minute. I'm gonna let out a yell. (WHOOOPS
17. Wahoo.

18. JIM: (WAY OFF) Hawoo.

19. BILL: I told you so.

20. JERRY: Come on! That sounded like Jim!

21. SOUND OF RUNNING THROUGH BRUSH

22. BILL: (SHOUTS) There they are. Right down below.

23. SHORT PAUSE

24. JERRY: (BREATHLESS) Jim! Oh boy, am I glad to see you and Dick.

25. EXCITED VOICES BACK COMING UP

1. JIM: (OFF) Hello Jerry. We're kinda glad to see you, too.

2. BILL: (COMING UP) It's them and they're both alive. Oh boy!

3. we sure was worried about yuh!

4. JIM: (UP) Hello Bill. Hello Boys.

5. JERRY: But where's the plane, Jim? And how'd you ever. . .

6. JIM: The plane just ain't no more, Jerry. She's all burned up. .

7. JERRY: Did you crack up? Are you hurt any?

8. JIM: Just a few bruises, Jerry. Dick sure did a fine job of

9. landing her. But we got out just in time. The plane caught

10. fire and another minute or two and we'd....

11. JERRY: Wilson was right then. He saw the fire. You mean to say

12. you guys stayed here and put out the fire . . even after you

13. cracked up?

14. JIM: (WEAK CHUCKLE) You wouldn't expect a ranger to walk off

15. and leave a fire he'd started himself, would you, Jerry?

16. JERRY: Oh boy, let me get this radio warmed up! Will Mrs.

17. Robbins and Bert Ellsworth be glad to hear about this.

18. (FADE) Boy oh boy, oh boy!

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

1. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday on the
2. National Farm and Home Hour as a presentation of the
3. National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of the United
4. States Forest Service....

5. Folks, at this time we'd like to do honor to one fire-
6. fighting airplane pilot who lost his life on July 15 in just such an
7. episode. While flying supplies to firefighters battling a stubborn
8. fire far back in the hinterlands of the rugged Bitterroot Mountains in
9. northern Idaho, Pilot Robert Maracich and Dell Clabaugh, his companion,
10. were caught in a treacherous downdraft and the plane crashed near a
11. small lake in the mountains. Pilot Maracich was killed instantly and
12. his companion Clabaugh sustained serious injuries. In tribute to
13. these men, the Butte Montana Standard of July 17 said: "The annals
14. of the Forest Service are replete with deeds of heroism and sacrifice
15. ...of life itself when the need arose...to save lives and property...
16. In this dry summer with hundreds of fires starting simultaneously in
17. the tinder beds of many western forests, we are brought to the
18. contemplation of a new kind of courage and heroism. Airplanes flying
19. over uncharted mountainous country, without proper landing fields and
20. flying low over the inferno of smoke-filled air, are dropping supplies
21. along rocky crests and deep gorges to fire fighters on the ground...
22. The forest Service and the public today mourn a brave flyer...
23. Meanwhile the heroic struggle to hold a hundred fires and eventually
24. to extinguish them goes on.
25.

The first of these is the fact that the
 government has been unable to secure
 the necessary funds to carry out its
 policy of non-interference.

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